

“Much Obligated”

Romans 15: 1 - 7

January 2, 2011

God Requires That His Children Help Grow Those Who Are Not As Mature, (vs. 1 - 7)

1. Every Believer Is Under Obligation To Help The Weak Grow In The Maturity Of Christ, (vs. 1 - 2); “Brothers, if anyone is **caught** in any transgression, you who are spiritual should **RESTORE** him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep **WATCH** on yourself, lest you too be **tempted**. **BEAR** one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he **IS** nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one **TEST** his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. ” (Galatians 6:1-5)

- Maturity is required to shoulder the load when others can’t, (vs. 1a); “Already **YOU HAVE ALL YOU WANT!** Already you have become rich! Without us you have become kings! And would that you did reign, so that we might share the **rule** with you! For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have **become** a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and **buffeted** and homeless, and we labor, **WORKING** with our own hands. When **REVILED**, we bless; when **PERSECUTED**, we endure; when **SLANDERED**, we entreat. We have **become**, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things. I do not write these things to make you **ASHAMED**, but to **ADMONISH** you as my beloved children. For though you **have** countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, **BE** imitators of me. ” (1 Corinthians 4:8-16)
 - Maturity is not allowed to ignore the failings of the weak, (vs. 1b); “We ask you, brothers, **to respect** those who **LABOR** among you and are **OVER** you in the Lord and **ADMONISH** you, and **to esteem** them very highly in love because of their work. **BE AT PEACE** among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, **ADMONISH** the idle, **ENCOURAGE** the fainthearted, **HELP** the weak, **BE PATIENT** with them all. **SEE** that no one **repays** anyone evil for evil, but always **SEEK** to do good to one another and to everyone. **REJOICE** always, **PRAY** without ceasing, **GIVE THANKS** in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. **DO NOT QUENCH** the Spirit. **DO NOT DESPISE** prophecies, but **TEST** everything; **HOLD fast** what is good. **ABSTAIN** from every form of evil.” (1 Thessalonians 5:12-22)
 - Maturity is not allowed to pursue its own interests but undertake what is good for others, (vs. 2); “For though I **AM** free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I **might win** more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to **win** Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not **BEING** myself under the law) that I might **win** those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not **BEING** outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might **win** those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might **win** the weak. I have **BECOME** all things to all people, that by all means I might **save** some. ” (1 Corinthians 9:19-22)
- “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. ” (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

2. Every Believer Is Under Obligation To Learn & Follow The Example Of Christ, (vs. 3 - 4)

3. Every Believer Is Under Obligation To Welcome One Another In The Harmony Of Christ, (vs. 5 - 7)